(c) No specific target has been set for the production of export quality tea in Uttaranchal by the end of the ongoing Five Year Plan.

(d) The estimated outlay for planting tea in the identified area of 9000 hectares is around Rs. 480 crores. during the 10th Plan period, Tea Board is extending subsidy as admissible under its Tea Plantation Development Scheme for the area to be planted. Financial support is also being extended by the Tea Board for setting up of self-help groups by the small tea growers. Tea Board has also provided a grant for setting up a Tea Research Station at Govind Ballav Pant University, Pant Nagar.

Amendments in Patent Act vis-a-vis TRIPS Agreement

156. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Swiss delegation headed by the Head of Bilateral Economic Relations (Jorg Al Reding) visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether they pressed for certain amendments to the Patent Act, so as to bring India within the ambit of the new regime stipulated in the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreements of the WTO; and

(c) what are the specific amendments demanded by the delegation and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) During its visit to India in October 2004, the Swiss delegation was informed about the efforts made by India to put in place an intellectual property regime compalying with obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual property Rights (TRIPS) and also the initiatives taken to modernise the intellectual property administration. The Swiss side appreciated the initiatives taken by India in the field of IPR's but expressed general concern that some Swiss companies continue to face some problems with respect to intellectual property rights in India. Subsequently, an amendment to the Patents Act, namely, the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004, effective from January 01,2005 was promulgated on December 26, 2004 to, inter-alia; comply with India's international obligations contained in the TRIPS Agreement which were due from January 01, 2005. This

amendment introduces the product patent regime in inventions relating to food, drug and chemicals along with other suitable provisions to make the system user-friendly. As a result thereof, the law effectively balances and calibrates intellectual property protection with public health, national security and public interest concerns.

Legislation for setting up of SEZs

157. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cleared the legislation for Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) what is the total number of SEZs in operation in India, State-wise;

(C) how many more SEZs are proposed to be set up, State-wise;

(d) how much FDI has come in so far in the SEZs that are in operation;

and

(e) what is the level of employment in these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 11 SEZs are in operation at present at Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Faltaand Salt Lake—Manikanchan (West Bengal), Noida (P.P.), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Jaipur (Rajasthan).

(c) Approval has so far been given for setting up of 33 SEZs in the private/joint sectors or by the State Governments and its agencies on the basis of the proposals received from them, which are at various stages of implementation. State-wise details of approved SEZs are given in the Statement (See below).

(d) Foreign investment, including investment by NRIs, in the units located in the operatinal SEZs is of the order of Rs. 422.97 crores.

(e) Units in the SEZs provide employment to 98,620 persons.